

Mr. Stanhope Gould
KRON-TV
1001 Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94119

12/27/88

Dear Stan,

Thanks to you and to Linda Bradley, who mailed it, for the cassette of "JFK: Unsolved Murder," which I've just received.

I write because I am troubled by what you added in accord with your understanding with Zapruder: "DUE TO OUR CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT, THE ZAPRUDER FOOTAGE HAS BEEN OMITTED FROM THIS DUB OF 'JFK: AN UNSOLVED MURDER.'"

Chip (Reasonable Doubt, A & E) Selby and I sued Henry Zapruder because he had long stonewalled both of us, Chip for his documentary and me on slides ~~copies~~ I ~~of which~~ had been promised ~~me~~ in an old FOIA suit.

I have no objection to the omission of that footage, with which I am familiar and of which I have copies, for my viewing of your show, which I look forward to very soon.

However, this notice appears to me to exceed what Zapruder required of others and not to be in accord with his representations to the court in our case. All that was required of us is a copyright notice.

It seems odd to me that you can air the film and people can make dubs of it as aired and you have to omit it from a dub you make? And give away, don't sell? And when the intended use is entirely scholarly?

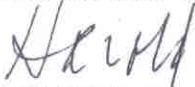
You may recall my interest was archival, so that your show as aired would be available forever at local Hood College, where all I have will ultimately go.

This is no complaint against you (pl) because you not only ought abide by your contract, you should also want to avoid the high cost of defending even a spurious suit.

If someone can please provide an explanation or, if your contract does not prohibit it, a copy of your contract, I'd like that to be filed with this cassette. The label affixed gives only the title and time. I'd appreciate it if you could provide me with a sticker to go over it indicating also when it was aired, or tell me so I can add it.

If there is anything else you can provide that might be of value in the archive all my stuff will be, I'd appreciate it.

Thanks and best wishes,


Harold Weisberg

I've looked and listened to your show. I'm pleased that you did not use me in it.

I'll be making a few notes for archival purposes but I have no reason to believe they will be of interest to you so I therefore do not burden you with them.

However, I do now understand why you seemed to be so impatient when you were here and anxious to get away from what I was saying. I have no complaint at all. It was your show and you were entitled to include and omit whatever you wanted.

Some of the mysteries you suggested exist never existed. They were fabricated, your trust was imposed upon and you neither had nor wanted any devil's advocacy.

You were also told and believed lies. For example, that "no security measures" were taken by the Navy hospital. This lie is essential to the Lifton fabrications. They were taken and among them was the secure closing of all but the front entrance. Specifically, the back gate was not only locked securely, the enlisted men who guard it were removed so nobody could pull rank and demand that it be opened.

You have Sylvia Chase say, "we may never know why there were two coffins for JFK." Aside from the fact that there were three, not two, the only reason there could be any mystery to you is that Lifton did not share with you, as your paid consultant, the information he got from the Military District of Washington. The fact is that there is no part of his theory that is even tenable, no matter how persuasive it may appear to be. What to you was the second coffin was sent by the MDW, which I believe is normal practice. No doubt it got to the hospital before Jackie and the corpse because the honor guard was at Andrews before the plane landed.

You did use part of the Sibert-O'Neill report, which I published in facsimile in 1975, even the paragraph in which it is, and you thus had a contemporaneous description of the casket and its contents and it was the Dallas casket and there was no body bag in it. The body was wrapped in sheets, they say, and they say they assisted with all that then was done, beginning with the opening of the casket. This is quite different than recollections after several decades, recollections that are often influenced by questioners and their questions that are not always questions.

With the exception of Robert Groden you latched yourself firmly to the dim past and the limited knowledge of those who then did little original work, those who know nothing at all about what some of us have brought to light since. Thus you say there are two versions of the trajectory of Bullet 399. There is more and this, as I recall, is something that you were not interested in when you were here and I wanted to give you FBI photographs. There is no real question about it, the bullet hole in the front of the President's neck was above the short collar and the damage to it and to the tie was caused by a scalpel. If you had not latched yourself so firmly to a National Enquirer variety theory and been so determined to ignore fact inconsistent with it Dr. Carricab, the only physician to see the body before the clothing was removed, would have repeated to you, as he did to me, his Warren Commission testimony in which he swore to this twice. I thought you phoned for the death certificate and I sent a copy by Federal Express. It places the wound in the back at the level of the third thoracic vertebra, thus about five inches lower than the Warren Commission. With Carrico to do no more than repeat his testimony you could have had something informative and accurate rather than an attractive but phony theory.

If you had gotten a copy of my Post Mortem (and I've no objection at all to your attributing my work to others) you'd have known that on the original of the body chart, which is what I used, there are no such notations as you cited.

Toward the end you have Tink Thompson saying that if he were to start now he'd conclude that there was no conspiracy. This conclusion is impossible for an informed man but then Tink is still limited to his original work of more than two decades ago and all of it was not even then original with him. Maybe he, like perhaps you and certainly others, confused between whether or not there was a conspiracy and who conspired.

David

Although I say in this letter to Gould at KRON-TV that I'd be making a memo, there really is no need. This is below the standards of the National Enquirer in some stories they have checked with me.

He has merely adopted the Lifton fabrications as his own and used some of the witnesses whose recollections clearly were influenced by Lifton. He fails to show that there was any opportunity for the body to be altered, beginning in Dallas, and the actual times that are recorded and witnessed by many make this impossible. However, he misrepresents still, for example in saying that only three people were with the corpse on A-1 when there were many. The only ones who left that area of the plane for the LBJ swearing in were Jackie and Kenny O'Donnell.

It is in the third segment, on the grassy knoll theory, that they use that paragraph of the Sibert-O'Neill report.

In the 4th segment he uses John Davis and thus plugs Davis' book, Mafia Kingfish. He says that the FBI "recorded" Marcello's threat to kill JFK. This is false. It was ~~told~~ to others but not to the FBI, whose paid informer Ed Becker was, that he later told this tale. Which on the face makes no sense and history proves it was invalid because Bobby remained on as AG until he decided to run for the Senate.

He says that Oswald was "connected" to Marcello. There is no evidence of this and although I've not seen Davis' book, I'm sure he has nothing that can reasonably be called a "connection." He says that Ferrie worked for Marcello. False. He worked for G. Wray Hill, one of Marcello's attorneys, who first got the permission of the chief attorney in the immigration case Jack Wasserman -- my prime.